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Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES



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DECEMBER 1996

SISTERS IN CHARGE:

CINDY H.
JEAN H.
KATHY LORRAINE

NOTICE

DUE TO A PROGRAM CONFLICT, OUR NEXT
MEETING IS BEING HELD ON DECEMBER 14th.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT:

Dear Sisters,

We held a nice meeting on a very crisp fall night. But the heat was turned up high in our meeting rooms. In fact it was almost too warm! Perhaps the heat was up for our tag sale. Didn't want any of the girls to catch a cold while trying on their newly found treasures.

We had the pleasure of welcoming a new sister and her wife to our group. Making her debut was the lovely Crystal Ann and Tonya. Now I'll have to say that Tonya knows how to make a good first impression! She brought along a loaf of her home made bread. It was superb! And she promises Christmas cookies for the next meeting.

Not as much is usually said about second impressions, though. As Tonya was our honored guest, she got to pull the winning ticket from the 50/50 split raffle. You can guess which one she pulled!!! And I haven't won yet in the year or two we've been doing this!

It was really nice having a couple with us once more. We do get the occasional one, but none on a regular basis since Jackie and Yvette, who moved from the area some time ago. Why not bring along your better half to the next meeting? She'll certainly be welcome!



A short business meeting was held. Next month's meeting was the first item discussed. It will be our annual Christmas/Holiday Party. The date for this meeting has been moved to the second weekend, due to other use of our site. We hope you will join with us in the pleasures

of the season. We ask that you bring a couple of gifts along. One being a small gift for the exchange among the sisters. Also a gift for a needy child, preferably for an older child. Unwrapped please. It is requested the following gifts NOT BE BROUGHT: #1-NOT another basketball. We don't need a repeat of Cindy dribbling all night and looking for someone to go out and shovel off the court for a little one on one. #2 Better avoid a football, as Janice has been doing some practicing lately and developed a new appreciation for 'touch' football. #3 Golf balls. You could be in danger, seeing the way Kathy, Jean, Patti and Denise play their game. #4 Firearms, explosives, etc. If you wonder why, stay at home and think about it. Often.

Please come and bring us your most important gift. The one we can all share in. Yourself. Share the joy of this special season with your sisters.

See you there,

Kathy Lorraine

NEW SISTERS

We would like to welcome two new members to our sorority. They are Jean W. & Sharon C. Hopefully we will be seeing them at a meeting soon.

We have had quite an influx of new members the past year. There are 18 new members on our mailing list since last December's list. They found us in a variety of ways. Mainly the internet, Buffalo News ads, Q News, IFGE, and Artvoice. So far, 10 girls have made their debuts this year.

How can we help the other eight, and those from past years that haven't joined in yet? Many of you requested a big sister, were you contacted? Please let us know, either by writing or calling the hotline. Our follow-up hasn't always quite worked properly and I fear some are still waiting for a little more encouragement.

We are up to fifty members on the list now, compared to 36 at this point last year. Four did not renew with last year. We have had the pleasure of 34 different sisters attending one or more meetings so far this year.

STORAGE CABINET

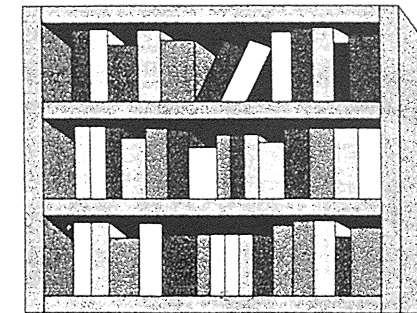
One has been acquired and installed in the foyer by our usual entrance. I doubt to many are going to miss the treacherous



trip down those steep stairs to our storage area in the basement.

LIBRARY

With the new storage cabinet, the library will be much more accessible than in the past. Hopefully we will be able to keep a closer eye on our belongings. Please check to see if you have any books, videos, magazines that belong to us all. Many items have disappeared over time and it would be nice to get them returned. We welcome any donations you might wish to make from your own collections.



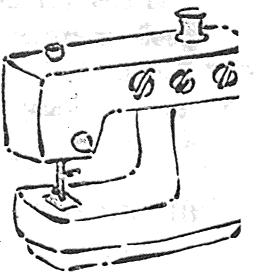
UPCOMING MEETINGS

The first meeting of the coming New Year will be "Dress up" night. Your chance to wear that special outfit that you might have been wanting to wear a few nights earlier on the Eve. Or did! OK, this is a little lame. But we need an activities chairwoman! Bet you could do better than this! How about it?

February is tentatively scheduled to be Country Night. Jean is going to teach us some line dancing. So put together a country outfit and come join in the fun.

KATHY T., the tailor

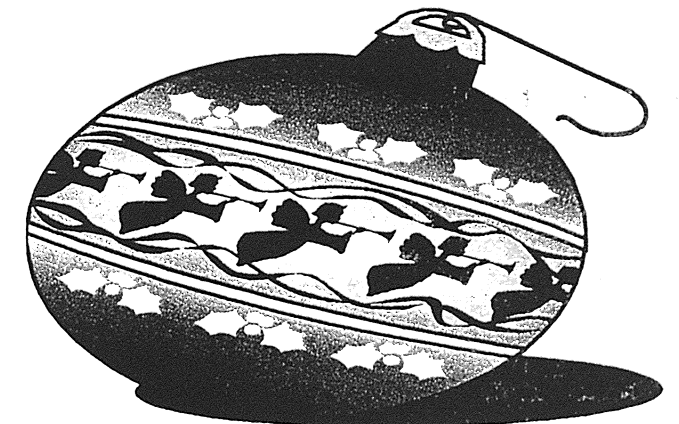
Our friend has moved and is now located in Clarence. She can be reached at 759 1902. Her shop is at 10749 Main St. Down in the hollow, near Salt Road. Call first for an appointment and her hours. For those who haven't met her yet, she is a warm, caring lady. Combined with her excellent skills, and reasonable prices, she is the one to see to get that favorite frock made to fit properly. Give her a call. Hopefully she will soon start stopping by our meetings like in the past. She is always welcome.



ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER MEETING: Denise M., Jean H., Janice G., Patti J., Rene K., Danalyn D., Kathy L., Collean R., Joy S., Angella S., Kim K., Susan R., Crystal Ann and Tonya.

OCTOBER SPECIAL MIDWEEK: Jean H., Patti J., Janice G., Francis R., Collean R., Joy S., Kathryn Y., and Susan R.



PASSING THE TEST

by Donna Baker

This is the second part of an article addressed to those who consider themselves TVs, and who want to pass in public as women.

For the basic premise, consult last month's issue. Each test's title may be read, "A woman has ____" or, "A woman has ____ than a man."

III. BODY: Up close, the face carries the primary clues, but from a distance, it's the body. And everyone sees you from a distance before they see you up close. You don't want to tip them off before you have to.

A. Wider hips: I personally feel that the single biggest giveaway after a beard and an ill-fitting wig is the fact that women's hips are proportionately much larger than men's. For two people with roughly the same height and weight, the woman's hips and buttocks are essentially always bigger around than the man's. It is very common for a TV to wear a size 18 blouse and size 12 or 14 jeans. Women just aren't built that way, ladies! And watch the dress hemlines. A TV's skirt frequently hangs lower at the back than at the front, because she lacks the bum to hold it up.

You absolutely must make or buy hip pads if you want to pass. For smaller gals, there are hip pads available from TV shops and Frederick's. I haven't seen any that really do the job for larger girls, though I haven't been in the market for a while. I made my own from two or three layers (to suit the occasion) of one-inch thick foam. I even made a sort of a pillowcase from nylon tricot to hold them. Talk to the girls who have padded their hips and make the right choice for yourself.

Now, I am the first to agree that the silky slither of a slip over my tush is one of the "primo" sensations that we experience. And the eroticism of that miniskirt stretched tightly over my bum is superbly arousing. But we're talking about passing, not about sex. Pad them hips, or get "read" a mile away.

B. Narrower shoulders: This was a much bigger pain twenty years ago, when shoulders were natural. Nowadays, you can't buy a woman's dress or top without shoulder pads. Replace the original pads with thinner ones. You can get them at any fabric or department store. I can't make any sweeping statements as to whether puffy sleeves and shoulder accents emphasize or hide your wide shoulders. I think it depends on the outfit and the wearer, and you must examine each one to see whether it makes you look like a linebacker or not.

C. Bigger breasts: At last, one of our favorite subjects! Silicone breast forms work best, but are expensive. Water balloons look fishy and are apt to burst. I used to use a

double baggie full of water, but suffered an occasional accident. A double baggie full of rice or birdseed is great, has a nice heft, and is safe.

This is going to hurt, but it must be said ... make them smaller. I know that big boobs are a turn-on, but we're trying to pass, not stimulate. Your chest is already

The second half of a test to evaluate your "real world" passability.

disproportionately big around compared to a woman with the same height. Big "gazongas" just make it worse. Never go above a C cup, and a B cup is better.

There is another trick that is worth noting. If I'm wearing a top that does not fit closely to my neck, I run three or four strips of surgical tape (plastic adhesive tape) across my chest after shaving it, stretching it from armpit to armpit. With my corset laced up and my breast forms in place, it pulls my "titties" together to make a nice little cleavage. It's short and not very deep, but it makes a big difference. A perfectly flat chest showing between your lapels just doesn't look right above those pretty breasts.

Another important tip: If you have plastic or silicone directly against your chest, you will get a big wet spot under each breast from the perspiration. (Oops! Horses sweat. Men perspire. Ladies glisten.) Cut an eyeglass shaped pad or a couple of circles from an old tee shirt. Put them behind the plastic bag or uncovered breast form to prevent this problem.

D. Less body hair: I guess I'm lucky, in a way. I have so few chest hairs I name each one, and miss them when they fall away. For other TVs, chest hair is a real problem. It not only can peek between your lapels, the color and texture of the hair shows through almost any woman's blouse. Nothing to do, here, but shave it or wear something heavy enough to hide it.

Another problem is arm hair. You can find bleaching solutions at the drugstore aimed at lightening the body hair of women in the same situation. They are a help, but some of us have so much hair that it still looks bad. I generally shave the backs of my fingers and hands up over my wrists, and wear opaque long-sleeved blouses. Were my arm hair darker, I would have to bleach it, because it would show through most blouses.

There are many ways to remove the hair from your legs and feet. Nair works for some people, though it smells awful. You can get electrolysis if you are both rich and numb from the waist down. Some people like those hair plucker machines, either the rubber rope type or the steel spring type, but others say they hurt too much. You can go to a salon and get hot waxed. (Ouch!) Shaving is what the vast majority of American women do.

If shaving your legs is not possible in your personal situation, you might try shaving just from the ankle down, and wearing pants. The other alternative is to pick up some shimmery nude opaque tights at the department or hosiery store (I get mine at Parklane), and wear your stockings over the tights. That works pretty well for nighttime use, and if your leg hair isn't too vigorous, it's adequate in the daylight.

I will caution you on one thing I learned the hard way. Men's thighs tend to be slightly closer together than women's, especially if you're overweight. If your thighs brush each other when you walk -- especially if you like to wear stockings and a garter belt --, then you'll have hell to pay a few days after shaving the area where they rub. Unless you're wearing some awfully short skirts and have time to cut the stubble every couple of days, you might leave that spot unshaven.

The rest of your body hair is none of my business.

E. More slender neck: We're all familiar with the image of football players whose heads seem to grow directly from their shoulders. Men's necks are proportionately thicker, and are almost the same width as the head where they meet the skull.

You can distract attention from your neck by wearing blouses that show some cleavage (see "C. Bigger breasts", above). A jacket with a deep V over a blouse really does wonders. It's always been my dream to wear a high lace collar and choker like Audrey Hepburn. I have yet to see the TV who can get away with that style, and I've seen a lot of them.

F. A smaller frame: If you're big, you're big, and that's all there is to it. There are big women; they're just not as common as little ones. If you're big, you're bound to get a little extra attention, and so must be even more careful on all the other tests. Gals shaped like basketball players have a tough time finding clothes in tall sizes. Gals shaped like basketballs actually can pass well. I mention "A. Wider hips" again, here. Chubby gals frequently have monumental derrieres. Too much is more passable than too little if you're big.

G. More slender hands: This is one that women often notice. Long nails are your best bet to lengthen those fingers. Assuming you don't want one-inch claws in your male guise, you'll want press-ons or glue-ons.

Personally, I find Lee press-on very satisfactory, but only when used with two stickers each. Lee nails are large enough for my fingers. Many TVs swear nails fastened

with super-glue. Others (like me) have a problem with them popping off and quite literally flying across the room. Try the tabs first, as they are easy to reposition if you goof. Then, if the glue-ons work for you, use them. They are much more secure for many gals.

H. Better defined waist: Women, even really chubby ones, generally have very well defined waists. They have a narrow ring where their pants ride. Your best bet is to get a strong boned lace-up corset. Failing that, get the strongest waist cincher you can find. Alternatively, buy a dress with a loose or covered waist, which is what women with too-large waists buy.

The key is to not wear something that is supposed to show off your waist. A simple skirt and blouse, with an unreduced waist and unpadded hips, looks frightfully masculine on a man! A woman's skirt, even one in large women's sizes (like 18W), is built to fit a body whose waist is 15%-25% smaller than the hips. Your eyes have come to expect those proportions on a woman. Don't disappoint them. Wear a jacket, wear a dress with a shape that hides the waist, or wear an oversized top that covers your fanny and waist, both. Or, get a corset. And pad your hips, in any event.

I. Shapelier legs: Most men have a knot of muscles in the back of the calf that makes a sharp corner right where women have a soft curve. There are a couple of things you can do about this. Most obviously, you can wear pants. I know, I know, that's no fun. But look around you, girls. Most women wear pants, not skirts, nowadays.

Now, if you don't have a problem with your height in heels, and heels are appropriate for the occasion, high heels do improve the shape of a man's legs, as well as a woman's. Don't forget the value of a long skirt, either. They can be very attractive.

J. Less odor: Again with the giggles! Cut that out! I mention this, though, because men do smell different than women. I believe it's mostly because men perspire more than women, especially their feet. TVs are also usually wearing more foundation garments than their genetic prototypes. So, take a nice bath just before dressing, use plenty of antiperspirant (not just deodorant), and use some foot powder, as well. A touch of perfume or *eau de cologne* is both fun and functional.

IV. CARRIAGE: There are so many differences between the way woman and men move! Here are a few of the most important.

A. A different walk: This is another subject for a whole book. In short, a man's power is in his shoulders, and a woman's power is in her hips. Stop using your shoulders to counteract the torque of your steps. Lead with your hips, not your shoulders. Let your upper body follow your lower body around the room. And when wearing heels, put your heel down before the toe.

There is no substitute for watching yourself walk and correcting your own mistakes, even if you get coaching from someone else. A full-length mirror that you can walk towards for the length of a room helps a lot. Mirrors you can walk beside are great, too. And a video camera is wonderful! You'll learn much more from seeing yourself than from reading my words, and even more if you get some coaching.

B. Practice on high heels: High heels are really a turn-on, but there are limits! I have a pair of five-inch heels that are to die for, but I would never wear them when I'm trying to pass. We've all seen women -- usually either teenagers or whores -- wearing heels that were too tall for them to walk in gracefully. Given our built-in disadvantages, we don't want to make things worse. Look in the mirror and the video monitor, and pick the heels that walk the best, not the heels that look the best.

C. More graceful actions: I've seen a really good TV, one who looks, walks, and even talks remarkably well, spoil the magic just by reaching for a napkin. You really need to work practice your actions, not just your walking, in front of a mirror or video camera. Especially work on things you're going to be doing in public. Try getting your wallet from your purse, getting your money from your wallet, cutting your meat, drinking your wine, sitting down, standing up, and so on. Observe, correct, and practice! It's the little things that trip you up. You bump your breasts against the car door when opening it. Your nails make it hard to unclasp your pocketbook. You have to pour the change into your hand, because you can't reach in an pick out pennies with those nails on. Your nails get caught in the steering wheel when you turn a corner. You have to watch for floor grates that will catch your heels. You leave the keys in the ignition because you're not used to putting them into a purse. And on and on and on. Observe, correct, and practice!

V. VOICE: For many of us, the voice is the most difficult single trait to alter. You can't pad it, and if you use it, you can't hide it. It's hard even to pretend to have a cold, because a fake sneeze isn't any easier to do than a woman's voice. The simplest solution, and the one I've most often used, is to speak absolutely as little as possible. Every time I've been "read" in public, it's because I had to speak too much. I've learned a lot, and do much better now, but I still worry.

The biggest key to training your voice is to use a tape recorder. My hobby is singing, and I've learned quite a bit about the voice. The fact is, your voice doesn't sound at all like you think it does. You are hearing your voice primarily as it is transmitted through the bones of your head, rather than hearing it as it is carried through the air to your ears. Your voice sounds very, very different to you than it does to everyone else. Using a tape recorder allows you to hear what your voice sounds like to others.

(Donna Baker is a member of the San Francisco area organizations ETVC, Diablo Valley Girls, and Rainbow Gender Association. This article

I've heard people say, "Tape recorders are useless and misleading. I don't sound anything like that when I speak!" That's my point exactly! Record someone else's voice and play it back. You can tell it's a tape recorder, and not live but it's very easy to recognize who is speaking, and it sounds pretty much just like them, doesn't it? The same is true of you, especially when you're trying out parts of your voice that you don't normally use.

A. Higher pitched voice: This is the fundamental difference. Women's voice boxes are physically smaller than men's, and make a higher-pitched sound. You must raise the pitch of your voice without squeaking and without using an obvious falsetto. (That's the voice the Monty Pythons use.) It is very hard for most of us to get a high enough pitch without sounding like Mickey Mouse. Experiment a while with the tape recorder, and get some coaching if you just can't find that magic spot.

B. More sing-song: Women vary the pitch of their word more, and vary the emphasis (loudness) less, than men. After you get the pitch working, listen to yourself talking in the tape recorder. Record women from the TV or radio and play them back, too. Listen for the differences in pitch in their voices.

C. Fewer interruptions: Men have to dominate and direct the course of any conversation with a woman. They fight for control of a conversation with another man. Women listen better and give the other person a chance to lead, a well. If you want to learn about this and a lot more differences between men and women, read the book *That's Not What I Meant* by Deborah Tannen. It's an eye-opener.

D. More rising inflections: Women are more likely to end a sentence with a rise in pitch. When a woman makes the simple sentence "I went to the mall today," it comes out, "I went to the mall today. Do you have any comments about that, or about your day?" When a man says it, it comes out "I went to the mall, today. I've got more to say about that, so ask me about it right now." Men tell you things. Women invite you to share your thoughts. Men say, "Let's eat lunch I'm hungry." Women say, "Are you getting hungry yet?" Get the picture? Read Tannen's book.

VI. ATTITUDE: Finally, a word about confidence. Even the best TVs get an occasional questioning glance or giggle. If you shrink away and think, "Oh, God! She's reading me! I'm gonna die! Don't call the cops!" you're done for. If you walk through the mall thinking, "Oh, God! Don't look at my skirt straight? Am I walking O.K.? He's looking at me! He's looking at me!" you'll attract a crowd.

If you're not worried about whether you pass, no one else will be, either. Frankly, no one really cares. Even if they do suspect you, they're not likely to say or do anything. Most shop clerks (especially in stores that sell larger sizes) are specifically trained to be nice to TVs. There's no law against crossdressing in California. If you don't shoplift, no one is going to hassle you. Brazen it out, and you'll be fine.

Relax! This is supposed to be fun!

AS ONE ATTORNEY SEES IT:

Is cross-dressing a crime?

Perfectly groomed, she stood gracefully, arms quietly folded beneath the black and gold stole that draped her tailored black suit. M's black leather shoes and purse were a quiet understatement balancing the discreet twinkle of conservative gold jewelry. I looked with interest at this well-turned-out woman who smiled a greeting as we were introduced by a mutual friend in the lobby of a downtown hotel. I had just met a cross-dresser.

I, as a genetic woman attorney interested in providing legal representation for people in alternative lifestyles, had been invited by a male-to-female transsexual client to attend a cross-dressers' Christmas party. In addition to M, I met about fifteen heterosexual cross-dressers that evening.

I was fascinated at the diversity of the people, and talked one-on-one with as many of them as I could. Without exception, they were friendly and open in conversation. Also without exception, each had a tale of heartbreak and loss directly connected with being a cross-dresser.

My eyes were opened to a fascinating world I had never known existed. Each person at the party told me of starting to cross-dress as early as age five. The urge to cross-dress never went away, even after years of trying to stop, efforts which ranged from going "cold turkey" to spending unsuccessful years in psychotherapy.

None expressed the feelings of my transsexual client who had from earliest childhood felt herself to be a female trapped in a male body.

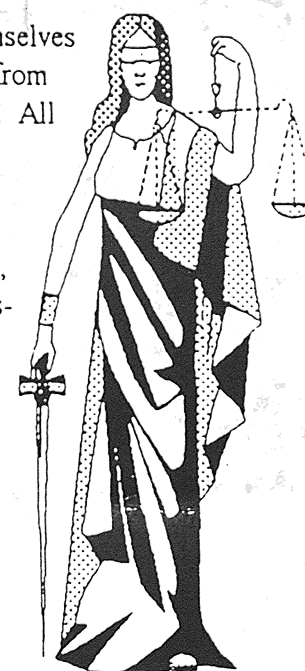
Neither did any sound like the typical "drag queen" homosexual male attracted sexually to other males. These cross-dressers were content with their basic lives as males and were attracted sexually to females.

For reasons that not one of them could pretend to understand, it was necessary to present themselves as a female from time to time. All described feelings of confusion, guilt, shame, and helplessness, which increased with each unsuccessful attempt to stop cross-dressing.

Some had, after years of secrecy, told their spouses the truth about their cross-dressing, trusting that the spouse would be accepting, or at least somewhat tolerant. Others had been "found out" in a stroke of bad luck. None were prepared for the swift and vicious actions of the spouse in summarily ending the marriage.

As each cross-dresser told me his story, I learned that nearly every one had lost almost all he held dear -- his spouse, children, homes, possessions -- because of his great vulnerability to attack. I was shocked to learn that nearly all of these heterosexual cross-dressing males had been the victim of blackmail or terroristic threats by spouse, family, or business associates. The most common threats were of exposure to the employer, which would almost certainly result in loss of employment, and exposure to non-sympathetic family members who would use the courts to deprive the cross-dresser of contact with his children.

Where the courts were used to sever all contact between the cross-dressing father and his children, only the obligation to pay financial support for the children remained intact.



Thus, in 1993, began my determination to do what I can to assist members of the "gender community," whether cross-dresser, transsexual, gay or lesbian, to protect themselves from being victimized for no reason except the way they are perceived by the community at large.

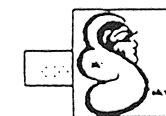
I know of no area of the law, other than that surrounding gender issues, where people can be deprived of (or forced to relinquish "voluntarily") property rights without having broken a law. Basically, if a cross-dresser is careful to abide by public restroom rules, there is little chance that cross-dressing will result in any confrontation with police.

At the Riverside Gala Weekend '96, I shall (for the fourth year) present a workshop on legal issues and the gender community. Of particular interest to me this year is the subject of blackmail, although I shall examine other issues as well, including employment, divorce, inheritance rights, child custody, support, and Social Security benefits.

I have also been invited to be the moderator for the first-ever Professionals Forum late Saturday afternoon, in which psychologists, psychiatrists and other professionals working with the gender community will have the opportunity to share their questions and concerns.

If I haven't met you, please introduce yourself to me. If you and I have already met, I look forward to seeing you again this year at the Riverside Gala Weekend '96.

Elizabeth C. M. Carmichael, Esq.,
Franklin, PA.



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